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January 29, 2020

Mr. Dennis Deziel
Administrator- Region 1
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109

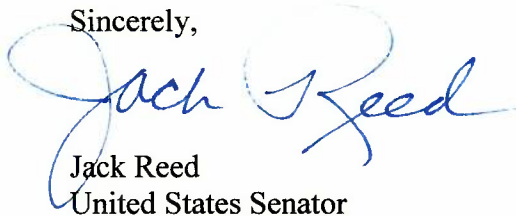
Dear Administrator Deziel:

I write in support of the University of Rhode Island's (URI) application for funding through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Education Grant program. This funding would support the development of the URI Food System Steward Program that would work to reduce food waste and increase access to locally-grown food through community education.

URI has proposed to establish a long-term, Cooperative Extension train-the-trainer program, with 120 people participating as trained Food System Stewards (FSS). The train-the-trainer course will train adult learners to volunteer in their communities, teaching others to adopt conservation behaviors and other environmental stewardship activities. After completing a six-week course, FSS volunteers would engage 2,500 youth and adults in underserved areas to adopt conservation behaviors and participate in projects that benefit the food system. URI anticipates that this program would encourage civic engagement, recover over 60,000 pounds of food waste, and direct 40,000 pounds of locally-grown produce to food insecure populations.

I support URI's proposal and ask your consideration of this application within all applicable rules and regulations. If I can be of assistance to you in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Albert of my Providence office.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator

Cc: Ms. Kristen Conroy, Environmental Education Coordinator, EPA Region 1